



Candidate Materials for 1999 Truman Scholarships

A stylized, handwritten signature of Harry S. Truman in black ink.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Deadline for receipt of nominations:
January 26, 1999

Notes to Candidates for 1999 Truman Scholarships

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awards \$30,000 merit-based scholarships to college students who wish to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. Scholars may attend graduate schools in the United States or in foreign countries.

In 1999, up to 80 students will be awarded Truman Scholarships. They will receive leadership training, graduate school counseling, preferential admission and merit-based aid to some premier graduate institutions, and internship opportunities with federal agencies. They will establish friendships with persons sharing similar values and interests.

Scholars are eligible to receive \$3,000 for the senior year of undergraduate education and \$27,000 for graduate studies. Scholars in one-year or two-year graduate programs are eligible to receive \$13,500 per year. Scholars in J.D. programs are eligible to receive \$13,500 for the second year and \$13,500 at the start of the third year's second semester if they present evidence that they will enter public service immediately upon graduation or completion of any clerkships. Scholars in longer graduate programs are eligible to receive \$9,000 per year for three years.

In 1999, one or more scholarships will be available to a qualified resident nominee in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and, considered as a single entity, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the Islands).

A CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The Foundation defines public service as **employment in: government at any level, uniformed services, public-interest organizations, nongovernmental research and/or educational organizations, public and private schools, and public-service oriented nonprofit organizations such as those whose primary purposes are to help needy or disadvantaged persons or to protect the environment.**

The Foundation seeks persons who aspire for positions in government or the nonprofit and advocacy sectors where they wish to improve the ways in which federal, state, or local government agencies, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations serve the public and protect resources.

The Foundation has supported Truman Scholars in many fields of study, including agriculture, biology, engineering, environmental management, physical and social sciences, and technology policy, as well as traditional fields such as economics, education, government, history, international relations, law, political science, public administration, public policy, and public health.

Past Truman Scholarship winners serve as managers of government programs, legislators and aides for legislative bodies, foreign service officers, school teachers, staff members in policy analysis and research organizations, attorneys for government agencies, public defenders, professors, and professional staff in advocacy organizations and not-for-profit institutions.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be nominated by their current institution of higher education or by their two-year institution if they are transfer students from community colleges or junior colleges. *Applications are not accepted directly from candidates.* Each nominee must be

- a full-time junior-level student at a **four-year institution** pursuing a bachelor's degree during the 1998–99 academic year. "Junior" here means a student who plans to continue full-time undergraduate study and who expects to receive a baccalaureate degree between December 1999 and August 2000, a student in his or her third year of collegiate study who expects to graduate during the 1998–99 academic year, or a senior-level student who is a resident of Puerto Rico or the Islands,
- committed to a career in public service as defined above,
- in the upper quarter of his or her class, and
- a United States citizen or a United States national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

1 *Selection of Truman Scholarship Finalists*

A committee will examine all nominations and will select about 200 Finalists to be interviewed for Truman Scholarships. Criteria for evaluating nominees include

- extent and quality of community service and government involvement,
- leadership abilities and potential,
- academic performance and writing and analytical skills, and
- suitability of the nominee's proposed program of study for a career in public service.

Priority is given to candidates proposing to enroll in graduate and professional programs specifically oriented to careers in public service. These include law and master's and doctorate programs in public administration, public policy analysis, public health, international relations, government, economics, social services delivery, education and human resource development, and conservation and environmental protection. Candidates may propose joint degree programs.

Candidates proposing to attend business, medical, or law school need to present a graduate program that is designed specifically for a career in the public service.

2 *Selection of Truman Scholars*

Truman Scholarship Finalists are interviewed by regional selection panels typically composed of senior public servants, college and university presidents, and past Truman Scholarship winners.

Scholars are selected primarily on the basis of

- leadership potential and communication skills,
- intellectual strength and analytical ability, and
- likelihood of "making a difference" in public service.

If a Panel judges that no Finalist from a state or district satisfactorily meets each of these criteria, it does not select a Scholar from that state or district.

The Foundation covers 50% of the air, rail, or vehicular transportation costs to attend the interview to a maximum Foundation share of \$500 for Finalists who are legal residents of the 48 continental states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The Foundation covers 75% of the airfare to a maximum Foundation share of \$750 for Finalists from Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam who are enrolled in institutions in their home state or district. Finalists may travel at government contract fares which, when available, are generally substantially less expensive than regular fares. The Foundation does not provide for meals, lodging, nor local ground transportation.

TRUMAN SCHOLAR ACTIVITIES

1 *Truman Scholars Leadership Week*

The 1999 Truman Scholars must attend this event, to be held May 23–29, 1999, at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. Travel from the Scholar's home (or institution if the school term is still in progress), lodging, and meals will be provided by the Foundation.

2 *Awards Ceremony*

The 1999 Truman Scholars must attend the Awards Ceremony on May 30, 1999, at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri.

3 *2000 Truman Scholars Washington Summer Institute*

The Foundation anticipates having a 10-week Washington Summer Institute consisting of graduate-level seminars and workshops and paying internships in federal agencies for up to 40 members of the 1999 Class of Truman Scholars. The program will be administered by one or more educational institutions in Washington, DC. Paid internships, travel to Washington, and subsidized housing will be provided. Election as a Truman Scholar does not guarantee participation in the Truman Scholars Summer Institute.

CANDIDATES SHOULD

Use the forms provided in this booklet or printed from the Web. Photocopies may be used. **Candidates may not generate their own versions of these forms.**

Respond precisely to the questions. Confine responses to the spaces provided.

Use Items 7–10 and 15 to reveal your values, interests, and motivation for a career in public service. The Foundation will protect sensitive information.

Briefly explain any activities, courses, or honors that readers are not likely to understand.

Propose a detailed plan for study in Item 12. Name the graduate institutions of greatest interest which are likely to accept you. (Scholars may change their study plans as long as the new plans are consistent with graduate degrees and fields of study given priority by the Foundation and with Scholar experiences.)

Prepare a convincing Policy Proposal. Use the format you feel best presents your ideas and recommendations.

Make the application neat and easy to read. The application should be impeccable in terms of appearance.

Alert the Foundation to any unusual circumstances that have limited your activities or affected your grades. Note such restrictions in Item 15 or ask your Faculty Representative to cover them in the Nomination Letter.

Work closely with your Truman Faculty Representative. You can gain valuable skills for putting together outstanding applications and for presenting yourself well in interviews. The Faculty Representative can help you develop plans for further study.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS AND NOTIFICATION OF STATUS

The deadline for Foundation receipt of the complete nomination package, including a completed and signed Nominee Information Form and Policy Proposal form and three letters of recommendation, is **January 26, 1999**. The nominations package must be submitted by the Truman Faculty Representative.

The list of Finalists will be posted on the World Wide Web (<http://www.truman.gov>) on February 10. Each Finalist's assigned interview date and location will be in the Web listing. Finalists without Web access who provide a stamped (\$1.24 postage), self-addressed 9 x 12 envelope will be sent a printed copy of the information. **The interview date cannot be changed, regardless of the circumstances of the Finalist.**

IMPORTANT DATES

January 26	Deadline for Foundation receipt of nominations
February 10	Posting of Truman Finalists on the Web (http://www.truman.gov), with the Finalist Interview Confirmation Form and all interview-related information, including the assigned interview date and location for each Finalist
February 19	Deadline for Foundation receipt of Finalist Interview Confirmation Form
February 25	Deadline for Foundation receipt for any airline ticket reimbursements
March 26	1999 Truman Scholars announced on the Foundation's home page

1999 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND LOCATION OF INTERVIEWS

Date	Location	Interviewing Finalists Who Are Residents of
March 1	Oxford, England	(for up to 13 persons, regardless of home state, who are studying in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or India)*
March 3	Washington, DC	District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia
March 5	Nashville	Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
	Atlanta	Florida, Georgia, South Carolina
March 8	Phoenix	Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada
March 10	Dallas	Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
	San Francisco	California, Hawaii, Oregon, Pacific Islands
March 12	Denver	Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Wyoming
	Kansas City	Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
March 15	Boston	Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont
	Minneapolis	Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota
March 17	Chicago	Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin
	New York	Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island
March 19	Ann Arbor	Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
	Philadelphia	Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
March 22	San Juan	Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
March 29	Washington, DC	North Carolina
March 31	Denver	Alaska
April 2	Washington, DC	[Eastern Region]

* If more than 13 Finalists are studying in these areas, priority will go to persons from states with relatively large numbers of Finalists and to those studying in Asia or Africa. Other Finalists will be interviewed in the region serving their home state.

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

The award may be used only for tuition, fees, books, and room and board or other specifically approved expenses. Payments from the Foundation may be received to supplement, but not to duplicate, benefits from the educational institution or from other foundations, institutions, or organizations. The combined benefits from all sources may not exceed the costs of tuition, fees, books, and room and board as prescribed by the institution's cost-of-attendance budget. The Foundation may withhold or terminate a scholarship due to unsatisfactory academic performance (such as failure to maintain a B average as an undergraduate) or failure as judged by the Foundation to pursue preparation specifically for a career in public service.

Scholars are required to provide an annual report by July 15. Scholars must submit a detailed graduate study proposal and receive approval from the Foundation before funds for graduate study can be provided. Scholars may request postponement of their awards because of ill health or other mitigating circumstances. Scholars may defer for up to four years Foundation support for their graduate studies after completion of their undergraduate studies. Scholars in graduate study programs supported by other means may request additional years of deferral.

REQUIRED NOTICES

Privacy Act Advisory Statement. Pursuant to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579), please be advised: Public Law 93-642 authorizes solicitation of this information that will be used to select Truman Scholars. The information may also be used to publicize your selection as a Truman Scholar. Furnishing the information is voluntary; failure to do so will prevent your consideration for a Truman Scholarship.

Debarment and Suspension Certification. In accordance with Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, as a condition of appointment, each Truman Scholar must certify that he or she is (a) Not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency; (b) Has not within a three-year period preceding this award been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against him or her for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; (c) Is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the preceding paragraph; and, (d) Has not had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default within three years preceding the date of the Award Letter.

Drug-free Certification. In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, as a condition of appointment, each Truman Scholar must certify that he or she (a) Will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in conducting any activity with the grant, and (b) If convicted of a criminal drug offense resulting from a violation during the period in which he or she is receiving support from the Truman Scholarship Foundation, he or she will report the conviction, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the conviction to the Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Are You a Potential Truman Scholar?

If you can put a check beside each of the following statements, you should be a strong candidate for a Truman Scholarship. If more than two do not apply, the Truman Scholarship is probably not right for you.

I. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (must be met)

- ☐ During the 1998–99 academic year, I am/will be a full-time student with junior-level academic standing; I have senior-level standing in my third year of college enrollment; or I am a senior and a resident of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or a Pacific Island.
- ☐ I am a U.S. citizen (or a U.S. national from a Pacific Island).

II. CAREER AND GRADUATE STUDY INTERESTS

- ☐ I hope to be a “change agent,” in time improving the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or educational institutions serve the public.
- ☐ There are conditions in our society or the environment that trouble me.
- ☐ I want to work in government, education, the nonprofit sector, or the public interest/advocacy sector to improve these conditions.
- ☐ Within four years of receiving my baccalaureate degree, I intend to go to graduate or professional school to further prepare for a career in public service.
- ☐ I would like to get a master’s degree, a doctorate, or a professional degree such as a law degree or a Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, Master of Public Policy, or Master of International Affairs.

III. COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACADEMIC RECORD

- ☐ I have participated extensively in two or more of the following sets of activities:
 - Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities
 - Community activities that were not organized by my school or by my fraternity/sorority
 - Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC
 - Partisan political activities and campaigns

- ☐ I have been involved with organizations or activities related to my career interests.
- ☐ I have demonstrated some of my leadership potential.
- ☐ I have high grades and a sufficiently strong curriculum to gain admittance to a first-rate graduate institution.
- ☐ I regularly read a good national newspaper (e.g., *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Wall Street Journal*) and a thoughtful periodical (e.g., *Foreign Affairs*, *New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *Atlantic Monthly*).
- ☐ I have had one or more courses relating to my career interests.

IV. GENERAL

- ☐ I would appreciate external affirmation of my values and goals.
- ☐ I would like to become associated with 100 Truman Scholar “change agents.”
- ☐ I am capable of analyzing a public issue in my intended career area and of presenting my findings in an 800–1200-word memo to a government official who could take action.
- ☐ I am willing to prepare an outstanding application and policy proposal under the supervision of my Truman Faculty Representative (Fac Rep).
- ☐ I believe I could hold my own in a challenging interview conducted by a panel of prominent public servants, educators, and former Truman Scholars.
- ☐ I could use \$30,000 to continue my education.

The Nominee Information Form, the Policy Proposal form, guidance for completing the materials, samples of good responses, and additional information are available on the World Wide Web (<http://www.truman.gov>).